



February 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

February 2

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ My Garden Café
(next to the Aladdin Hotel)
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

Brakeman Academy Dates

(meet in the Carpenters
Shop at the Tri-Dam Bldg)
February 6
February 7
February 19
February 20
February 21

GCOR Class

(meet in the Carpenters
Shop)
March 12
March 13

Fire Patrol Class

(meet in the Carpenters
Shop)
May 14
May 15

Interpretive Training

'Telling the Railtown Story'
(meet in Carriage Room)
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 5
March 12

Tour Guide & Car Host Class

(meet in Carriage Room)
March 19
March 26

**More class details
on page 2*

*"Volunteers are vital enablers
and animators of civil
society. Their contribution is
sizable, but not always
measurable. They don't often
make headlines, but they do*

Railtown 2015

Volunteer Honorees

This year's dinner honoring all our
volunteers was a fine western
themed affair! The food and fellow-
ship was great and enjoyed by all.

We bid a fond farewell to Kim Baker
who has done a remarkable job as
Superintendent since 2008. We said
hello to the new CEO and Founda-
tion President Cheryl Marcell. We thank all our volunteers for their dedication
and service! This year we were pleased to award Mike McReynolds (*above right*)
as our Volunteer of the Year. He gives of his time in several areas to our park,
all with a great attitude. We also said goodbye with our Thank You Award for
long service to Dewey & Juanita Barron and Ray Azevedo (not present) who are
retiring from park service. Our other awards are listed below and given in con-
sideration and thanks to each of these volunteers for their exemplary service.



(left) Nancy Bull & David
Connery (not present)
accept
The Interpretive
Excellence Award



(right) Dieter Teschke,
Hal Montano, Andrew
Benton & David Ethier
receive the Outstanding
Service Award



(left) Greg Romelfanger
was chosen as
our 'Rookie of The Year' for
outstanding service in his
first year at Railtown 1897



(right) David Deutsch, Bob
Ide and Al Tunsen (not
present) accept the Special
Project Award



(left) Bob West and Robert
Williams were given the
Above & Beyond Award



(right) We also said good-
bye to long time volunteers
Dewey & Juanita Barron
and Ray Azevedo for their
long service and contribu-
tion to our park



Volunteer Profiles: Paul Tremayne

Starting off the new year, we'd like to introduce you to Paul Tremayne, our Tuesday tour guide. Paul is a native Californian and small farmer from Ripon. He can be found giving tours every Tuesday. He was born in Hollywood and raised in Southern California. He has a lovely wife Trish of 55 years and three boys. He grows almonds for a part time living and other organic vegetables and fruits and we are occasionally treated to squash, garlic, onions, tangerines, plums and pluots whenever in season. Pluots? They're a cross between a plum and an apricot. When not volunteering he also works part time for Lowes. He worked for them full time for 12 years. In fact he has been in the hardware business for many years. From 1979 to 1985 he worked for the oldest wholesale hardware firm, Baker-Hamilton, who opened for business in 1849 selling shovels, gold pans and blue jeans to the miners. His wholesale route had him carrying a 35 pound book into hardware stores around the valley and the mother lode. Some may remember the older hardware stores around Sonora, Mundorff's Hardware, Hales & Symon, Twain Harte Lumber, Mine Supply & Hardware and Sierra Lumber. Toting around a heavy book like the one pictured was before the advent of the internet and computers.

Paul joined us originally in 2001 and worked as a tour guide for our school days until 2002. He returned in 2014 and has enjoyed greeting and interpreting to our visitors since. What does he like the most about Railtown 1897? *"Being with the people and sharing our history. I love the trains. I still have my 1946 Lionel set my folks gave me. It's a privilege to be a part of the history. I think it's important to have the opportunity to increase public awareness as to the historic value of the Sierra Railway."* THANKS PAUL!



Spring Training Sessions

Please join us for as many sessions as you are able. A wide variety of topics are presented. Particularly important this year is the introduction of our Interpretive Master Plan with Kathy Schultz. All our training sessions are designed to give new and returning volunteers as much exposure and instruction, as to what is involved in all our volunteer duties. Please join us! Those volunteers interested in the Maintenance & Restoration activities should attend the Thursday maintenance day, which begins with a mandatory safety meeting at 8:30pm. You can check in with George Sapp (our Restoration Lead), Rob Buchanan (Maintenance Worker I) or our lead volunteers Gary Hosman and Marty Gerbasi.

The dates and sessions so far are: **February 13**, Introduction to State Parks w/ Lisa DeLacy/ History of The Sierra Railway w/ Dave Connery; **February 20**, The Interpretive Master Plan w/ Kathy Schultz; Roundhouse Hosting w/ Mike McReynolds; **February 27**, The Volunteer Manual w/ Dave Rainwater; How Steam Locomotives Work w/ David & Stephanie Tadlock; Introduction To Hands On Interpreting w/ Phil Sexton; **March 5**, Costuming w/ Janet Montano, Jeannie Teschke and Karen McMahon; Greeting & Deck Interpretation w/ Nancy Bull & Christine White; The Junior Ranger Program w/ Joe Yonan; **March 12**, The History of Jamestown w/ Joe Sparagna; **Historic Facts & Writings Related to the Sierra Railway** w/ Karen Kling; **March 19**, Interpreting as a Car Host w/ Dave Connery, Interpreting as A Tour Guide w/ Dave Connery; **March 26**, The Role of The Car Host, Stationmaster & Conductor w/ Dave Connery, Ron White & Tommy Johnson; Pre Season Train Rides; *NOTE: Those interested in the Ticket Agent role will learn on the job when the season starts. The Fire Patrol class will be taught by Anthony LaNotte on **May 14 & 15** (in the Carpenters Shop at the Tri-Dam)

All classes will be held in the Carriage Room from 9am to 3pm. (unless otherwise mentioned)

Construction Project at Railtown Has Begun

The previously announced construction project has begun behind the Roundhouse. Please don't talk to the construction project workers. They are busy and are not there to answer questions. Above all, please don't cross the orange fencing. In short stay away! It is a construction zone with its own dangers and safety considerations. This project is expected to last for at least two or three months. Tour guides are asked to re-route their tours for the safety of all concerned. If you have any questions, you are welcome to ask Rob Buchanan (Park Maintenance Worker I). His email is: rob.buchanan@parks.ca.gov. I have included the information about the project below:



Background

The Roundhouse at Railtown 1897 State Historic Park was built in stages, beginning in 1897. The major purpose of the structure is the maintenance and operation of steam locomotives, a continuous activity since the structure was built. Maintenance of steam locomotives requires dumping of the hot water, as part of the routine inspection process. The building was designed so that the water (up to 1,000 gallons at a time) can be dumped into the pits under the locomotives, then the pits drain through a central manifold, into the pond. Modern environmental laws aim to protect the watershed (Woods Creek, in this case) and do not allow the dumping of used, oily water. For this reason, in 2008, the pits were plugged up. We have been operating with several generations of "make-do" methods, including having the water hauled out by an environmental disposal company (at a cost of up to \$50,000 annually) and more recently, the water has been pumped into a tank car for transport to the Freight Shed, the closest available sewer access, and dumped into the Jamestown Sanitary District sewer.

Project Description

This project will restore the historic function to the roundhouse, by installing new drainage from the roundhouse pits, to an oil/water separator in the lower parking lot, with the processed water being dumped into the sewer. The end result will be invisible to the public, but will restore the historic functions of the roundhouse. This is very important, because it allows the historic roundhouse to continue to function, in the modern world.

Construction Impact

From January 6th through the end of March (and possibly later, depending on the weather) the contractor will be trenching around the roundhouse, horizontally boring under the house tracks, removing asphalt pathways, and portions of the roundhouse whiskers into each stall. Roundhouse access and Tours will be impacted. Rob Buchanan will be the primary park contact with the contractor, and will be sending out weekly updates to staff and volunteers. Tour Guides should expect revised tour routes, and plan ahead. We will try to have updates at the store, but you may want to check your route before you start touring. No visitors, staff or volunteers are permitted inside the delineated construction areas. Please respect these boundaries. If you have issues/concerns about the project, please share them with Rob. There is a very well defined communication chain, and things will run smoother if we all work within the defined channels. One of the bonus impacts of this project are new asphalt pathways on the south and west sides of the roundhouse. Depending on when the asphalt plants are able to open in the spring, we may need to be patient with temporary surfaces. The asphalt will definitely be replaced as part of the project. While this project will create some inconvenience through the winter, the long-term benefits are very important.



PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Railtown Website- www.railtown1897.org
Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
Newsletter Editor— Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown 1897 & The California State Railroad Museum Foundation thanks our following business members:

The Union Democrat, Black Oak Casino Resort, The Willow Steakhouse and Saloon, The National Hotel, The Jamestown Hotel, The Twain Harte Rotary, The Tuolumne County Economic Prosperity Council, Tourism Tactics, Pizza Plus, Buck's Auto Body, Yosemite Title, Sierra Nevada Communications



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209, except where noted)

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Lisa DeLacy , Museum Curator I (DER)	984-3119	Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov
Karen Kling , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov
Vacant Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Lew Barnard , Fire Patrol Coordinator	916-343-2667	wa6esa@sbcglobal.net
Karen Ethier , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	kmethier@gmail.com
Ron White , Stationmaster Coordinator	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request